



West Chester University of Pennsylvania

Parent E-Newsletter

February 2010

Avatars, Education and Ethics in the Sciences



Joan Woolfrey

"Avatar" is a term familiar not only to some movie-goers, but also to progressive professors like West Chester University's Joan Woolfrey.

Woolfrey has won a grant from the National Science Foundation to bring ethics to the fore in certain sciences, and she says the virtual world of "Second Life" is the perfect place to practice. And yes, she has an avatar.

"The hands-on and exciting nature of virtual worlds is uniquely suited to maximizing the effectiveness of ethics education," says Woolfrey, a philosophy professor whose research interests include ethical theory and bioethics. She says the virtual world - a hands-on environment - can

In This Issue...

[Avatars, Education and Ethics](#)

[Sykes After Dark](#)

[FAFSA Deadline](#)

[Spring Schedule](#)

[Presidential Gala 2010](#)

[Alumni Corner](#)

[Student Scholarships](#)

Looking for Student Scholarships?

Click the button to visit the online search engine!

[**Search Scholarships**](#)

"increase the ethical engagement of students and faculty and, by using modules that emphasize the ambiguity of the ethical context, help to free participants of the inevitable bias that comes with the awareness of being studied."

Second Life is one of the most popular virtual worlds for educators, with hundreds of universities worldwide connecting, sharing ideas and resources, and conducting online meetings and even an annual conference. The free software was released in 2003; basic accounts are free and available for use in any location with Internet access. Schools can purchase private "land" where teachers and students can explore in a safe environment. In fact, WCU's College of Education is in the process of "renting" a small piece of virtual land for pilot projects and to introduce students and faculty to virtual worlds.

"The use of virtual worlds in the classroom is fast becoming an innovative and exciting way to experience learning," says the College of Education's Larysa Nadolny, one of Woolfrey's co-investigators. Nadolny cites such projects as environmental education, global collaborations, 3-D modeling, STEM projects and more.

The value of the three-year NSF grant, entitled "Applying Virtual Worlds to Ethics Education in Science," is \$299,383.

New This Semester : Sykes After Dark

New this semester, Sykes Union, Student Government Association, and the Student Activities Council with support from President's Office, SSI, and Residence Life are finding a way to keep students on campus for the weekend. Each Friday Sykes Union will come alive from 9:00 p.m. to 1:00 a.m. Sykes After Dark is a multi-faceted program which incorporates movies, dances, comedy shows, crafts, video game system areas, and FOOD! The first Sykes After Dark was a "Snow Dance" which featured dancing in imitation snow, a hot chocolate bar, make your own snow globe and a 36 inch television give-away! All of these programs are free to students.

**If there is an
emergency
on campus**

**how will you be
notified?**



www.wcupa.edu/wcualert



**Past editions of
Parent E-News**

Click the icon
to visit the New
Student Programs site:



FAFSA Priority Deadline is

March 1

Important Reminder!

March 1 is the priority deadline for completing and submitting your 2010-2011 Free Application for Federal Student Assistance for West Chester University.

WCU - Federal code 003328

For more information contact the [Financial Aid Office](#) at (610)-436-2627

Spring/Summer 2010 Schedule

To get a full calendar of the 2010 class and break schedule

Copy/paste the link below into your url:

<http://www.wcupa.edu/registrar/documents/>

[Jan-Dec2010.pdf](#)

Spring Break Information

The following information is provided to help students and their families prepare for the closing of the North Campus residence halls for Spring Break:

All residence halls will close on Friday, March 5, 2010, at 6:00pm. As with previous university-recognized breaks, residents will check-out of their halls with the Resident

Send Your favorite
WCU Student a

Surprise Birthday
Cake



New Street Catering, your campus caterers, offers a variety of cake packages that are available for purchase to surprise your favorite WCU student for any special occasion -

Birthday, Holidays,
"Good Luck on Finals"



Our talented pastry chef will create a custom cake of your choice accompanied with disposable service ware & greeting note.

Assistants (RAs). All residence halls reopen on Sunday, March 14, at 12:00pm (noon). Meal plans will resume with dinner on Sunday, March 15.

Residents are advised to take all belongings with them that may be needed during the break period. Residence Hall suites will not be accessible during Spring Break.

Break housing for pre-approved student athletes will remain in Brandywine and Wayne Halls. Coaches arrange for housing for their athletes based on team schedules. Student athletes required to stay on campus for team commitments do not have to reserve housing independently.

Students who live in the South Campus apartments or at The Village at WCU are permitted to remain in their apartments over the break period. The clubhouse will hold amended hours during the break period, but will open each day for student use.

Contact our sales office
at 610-436-3130 or email

NewStreetCatering@wcupa.edu

to learn more about
these affordable
and fun offerings.

2010 Presidential Scholarship Community Gala

Growing Tomorrow's Leaders

Saturday, March 20, 2010

Hollinger Field House, West Chester University

The Presidential Scholarship Community Gala, an annual black-tie event, will recognize WCU's presidential student scholars and raise proceeds to fund future student scholarships. Tickets start at \$165 per person.

We need your help to Grow Tomorrow's Leaders!

The committee is seeking donated items for the silent

auction at the Gala. Donations may include a stay at a vacation home, gift certificates, electronics, or other unique items.

For more information about the silent auction or attending the Gala, please contact Melissa A. Cauler, director of annual giving and stewardship, at mcauler@wcupa.edu or 610-430-4151.



[WCU Alumni Online Community](#)

The Online Community is a free service to alumni that will keep you connected to your friends, classmates, Alumni Association and to WCU. Features include a searchable all-inclusive alumni directory, online Class Notes, permanent email forwarding, and much more. Registration is required to protect the security of the site. The community will also provide you with a permanent e-mail forwarding address that can display your Ram pride wherever you go!
(yourname@alumni.wcupa.edu)

If you have questions, please contact Courtney Long at clong@wcupa.edu.